



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EST (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Wednesday - February 12, 2003

- ***In the West***, beneficial precipitation continues to overspread ***southern California***, but mild, unfavorably dry weather persists elsewhere from the ***Rockies westward***. Mountain snow packs are below normal and spring runoff prospects remain dismal in most watersheds ***east of the Sierra Nevada***.
- ***On the Plains***, mild, dry weather favors overwintering wheat. Across the ***northern half of the Plains***, a shallow snow cover continues to provide the winter wheat crop with some moisture and insulation.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, mild weather is overspreading ***southwestern portions of the region***, where today's high temperatures are forecast to reach or exceed 40 degrees F. In contrast, cold weather is maintaining stress on livestock across the ***northern and eastern Corn Belt***, primarily from the ***upper Mississippi Valley to the Ohio Valley***.
- ***In the South***, mild, breezy weather favors early-spring fieldwork but is reducing topsoil moisture.

Outlook: Cold air will trail a strong cold front, bringing below-normal temperatures to the ***northeastern quarter of the U.S.***, while periods of snow will linger across the ***Great Lakes States and New England***. Meanwhile, a storm system near the ***southern California coast*** will funnel copious Pacific moisture into the ***Southwest***, triggering much-needed rain and mountain snows from ***California eastward to the central and southern Rockies***. Rain, freezing rain, and snow will spread across the ***central and southern U.S.***, reaching the ***Mid-Atlantic States*** by the weekend. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for February 17-21 calls for below-normal precipitation in a band from the ***southern Plains to northern New England***. Meanwhile, wetter-than-normal conditions are expected in ***northern California***, the ***Northwest***, and the ***southern Atlantic States***. Below-normal temperatures will persist in the ***Northeast***, but warmer-than-normal conditions are predicted for the ***Plains, Midwest, and Southeast***.

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